



Arizona State Forestry Division
Bureau of Indian Affairs: Southwest, Navajo, Western Regions
Bureau of Land Management: Arizona, New Mexico
National Park Service, Intermountain Region
New Mexico State Forestry Division
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2
U. S. Forest Service



Date: April 18, 2012
To: Firefighting Personnel, Southwest Area
From: Chair, Southwest Coordinating Group
Subject: Ethical Behavior

The Southwest Geographic Area consists of Agencies who are committed to the highest principles of ethical behavior. The public, for which we serve, needs to know that they can trust each of us to do what we say as well as being fiscally responsible in our day-to-day operations.

Our success as an interagency team is built on this trust and on our personal and professional commitment to conduct operations in full compliance with the laws and policies of each agency whenever and wherever we do business.

As fire management programs become increasingly more complex each employee will be faced with an increasingly complex business and legal environment. For this reason, we must always operate under one set of standards - standards that are rooted in our Principles of Integrity and set forth in each agency's policies.

Please review your agency's policies on business practices. We must all understand and comply with those requirements that affect our specific jobs.

Above all, it is important to speak up and ask questions whenever there is any doubt about how to interpret a policy or legal requirement in order to proceed in a responsible and ethical manner. If you are aware of a legal or ethical violation, it is your obligation to report it promptly to your manager or any of the other contacts as identified within your agency.

In closing, the Southwest Coordinating Group asks each of you to commit to maintaining the highest level of personal integrity in all of your business efforts within and outside the Southwest Area. It is crucial to our current and continuing success within the Southwest.

Sincerely,

Leon W. Ben, Jr.

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Chair, Southwest Coordinating Group